



THE NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE NEWSLETTER TO ALUMNI

FORT LESLEY J. MCNAIR, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20319

DIRECTING STAFF

Commandant
M.G. Bayne, Vice Admiral,
U.S. Navy

Deputy Commandant
C.D. Daniel, Jr., Major General,
U.S. Army

Deputy Commandant
for International Affairs
W. Leonhart, Ambassador

Secretary
V.C. Wilkins, Colonel,
U.S. Army

BOARD OF CONSULTANTS

Mr. W.J. Baroody

HON N. Davis

HON T.S. Gates

HON G. Gray

Prof F.D. Kohler

Dr. W.C. Langsam

ADM D.L. McDonald,
USN (Ret.)

GEN J.E. Smart
USAF (Ret.)

Dr. W.M. Tate

GEN E.G. Wheeler,
USA (Ret.)

ALUMNI OFFICERS

President
GEN A.M. Gruenther,
USA (Ret.)

First Vice-President
HON C.H. Timberlake,
Dept of State (Ret.)

Second Vice-President
BG E.H. Simmons,
USMC

Third Vice-President
MG W.M. Schoning,
USAF

7 February 1975

Dear Alumnus:

The chances are better than fifty-fifty that, a few months ago, you received a questionnaire eliciting your views on matters related to the effectiveness of the College in accomplishing its mission. The study represented by the questionnaire reflects a recommendation of the Board of Consultants and is also an extension of our continuing program of evaluation of course content and academic procedures. The survey was conducted for us by the Response Analysis Corporation, of Princeton, New Jersey, an organization with substantial experience in evaluating curricula and academic institutions. Alumni still on active duty who received questionnaires were also sent, in each instance, a separate questionnaire to be passed to the current supervisor of the alumnus at the discretion of the alumnus.

Of the more than half the College alumni who received questionnaires, 80% completed and returned them in time for final tabulation -- a remarkable rate of response. Of those supervisors given questionnaires (nearly half), 70% returned them in completed, usable form. We have just received a draft report of the results of the survey, the final report scheduled to be in our hands by mid-month.

Whether or not you were among those who received a questionnaire, I am sure you will be interested in the results. Following, then, for your information, are the major highlights:

- Nearly four out of five alumni believe that attending the College significantly increased their professional competence (18% "major increase"; 60% "appreciable").

- Of five suggested attributes which could be important to higher level national security assignments, a majority of graduates viewed two as most important and also considered them the attributes which the College experience most affects. (66% considered "most important" the "ability to appreciate and allow for political considerations in defense planning", and 68% thought this the attribute which the College most affects. 59% considered "most important" a "perspective which sees the military role as only one factor and sometimes not not even a major factor in considerations of national security", and 54% saw this as an attribute the College experience most affects.)

- Alumni recorded their views on the value to them of eight aspects of the College experience, curriculum components, and other factors. The item rated highest of the eight is the curriculum component described as "opportunity to listen to and meet with authorities in various fields", followed by "associations with other students."
- An area in which alumni expressed spontaneous opinions reflecting disapproval and of doubtful value was the individual research projects. (It is of interest that we removed the IRP from mandatory category last Academic Year--1973-1974. Students may now take a combination of electives in lieu of preparing an IRP, when it can be demonstrated that this will be of more value to them.)
- Views of supervisors tended to support those of alumni. Of special interest, we believe, are the following:

--Nearly four out of ten (39%) supervisors consider the mission of The National War College "more important now" than ten years ago, and 45% consider it "just as important now."

--As for the effectiveness of the College in carrying out its mission, 25% of the supervisors said "absolutely first rate", and another 51% "commendable in most respects."

On behalf of the Directing Staff and the Faculty, I wish to thank all who cooperated in this important project.

Sincerely,



M.G. BAYNE
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commandant